



Campaign Finance Reform

The state of Connecticut has some of the toughest election laws on the books, but the recent controversy surrounding our former governor has created the perception that our state is in dire need of campaign finance reform. Of course, instead of addressing real abuses, like legislators who propose bills to give state funding to their employers, we have been told by the “reform community” and their friends in the legislature that we must institute a system of taxpayer financed campaigns. I have always been opposed to using tax dollars to pay for political campaigns, but this year I agreed to accept it if (and only if) we addressed the growing influence of special interest dollars through Political Action Committees and lobbyist contributions. Of course, the system that allows these abuses to flourish has also contributed to gains for the majority party in the legislature, so it was no surprise that they scuttled all of these reforms at the end of the session. This issue remains unresolved at the moment, but the Governor has asked us to come to a compromise solution in an upcoming special session.



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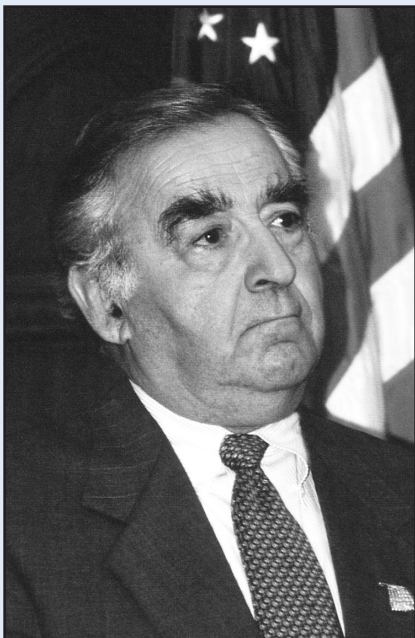
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2005
Legislative Report

State Senator
Louis C. DeLuca

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State Senator *Louis C. DeLuca*

Dear Neighbor,

*The 2005 Session of the
Connecticut General Assembly was
one of the most disappointing in my
15 years as your state senator. We*

*came into the session with a billion dollar deficit and faced a historic
opportunity to set the state's finances in order and make real changes
in the ways government spends your tax dollars. Unfortunately, instead
of working hard at finding ways to limit government spending and
improve the job market, the majority party focused its efforts on
legalizing same-sex marriage, mandating more recess time in schools
and reducing the penalty for possession of crack cocaine. These issues
are not my priorities and I do not believe they are the priorities for*

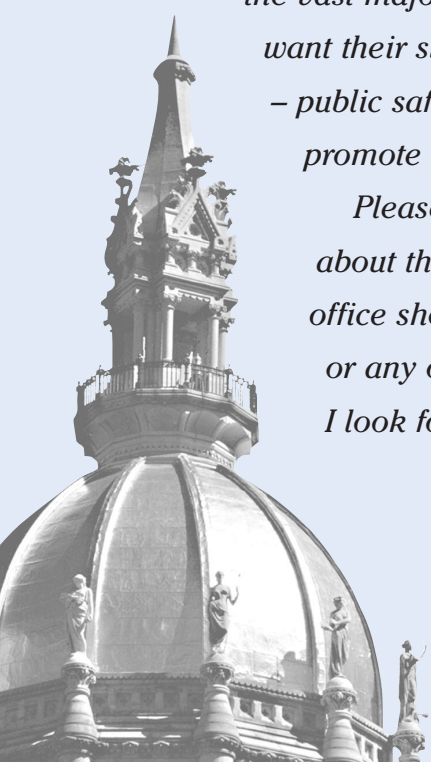
*the vast majority of Connecticut residents who simply
want their state government to take care of the basics
– public safety, public education, and helping to
promote a healthy economy.*

*Please take a moment to read this information
about the 2005 session, and feel free to contact my
office should you have any questions about these
or any other legislative issues, at 1-800-842-1421.
I look forward to hearing from you.*

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Louis C. DeLuca in dark ink.

*State Senator
32nd District*



Eminent Domain

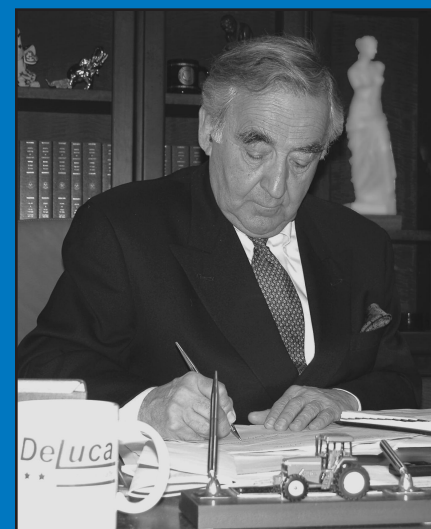
Many people were justifiably alarmed at the recent ruling by the Supreme Court that opened the door for abuses of eminent domain powers by local land use authorities. I proposed a sensible amendment that would have put an immediate stop to all eminent domain claims in the name of “economic development” on privately owned dwellings. The majority Democrats defeated this effort claiming that the issue needed “further study.” I will continue to work at passing this vital legislation, because I do not believe it takes a study to determine that people shouldn’t live in fear of having their homes seized by the government in order to build malls and expensive condominiums.

Spending Cap

The state’s spending cap was enacted in 1992 when 81% of Connecticut’s voters said “yes” to putting controls on the amount of money state government can spend every year. The cap has worked well for the past 13 years, keeping spending increases around 4.5%. The budget passed this year will increase spending over the biennium by a reckless 12%. I believe this is a direct affront to the taxpayers of the state, and represents the worst kind of arrogance on the part of the legislature. The people of Connecticut deserve more self-control from their state government, and I am concerned this sets a dangerous precedent that will lead to even more reckless spending in the future.

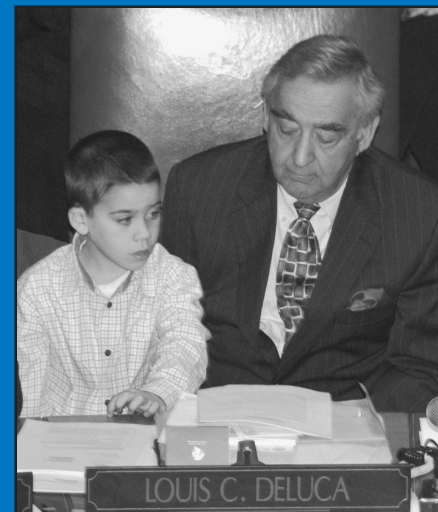
Same-Sex Marriage

I strenuously objected to the efforts of a few key legislators (backed by national same-sex marriage activist groups) who sought to make Connecticut the first state in the nation to proactively redefine marriage as something other than between one man and one woman. A bill granting rights to same-sex couples eventually passed under the name of “civil unions,” which I also voted against, but thanks to the efforts of several key Republican legislators we were able to include a legal definition of marriage within the bill as “between one man and one woman.” This, of course, is how marriage has been defined since the dawn of civilization, but it is now necessary to pass these kinds of laws to protect the institution against the efforts of activists. Civil unions will become the law of the land as of October 1, but I will continue to work against these efforts to erode the meaning of marriage in the state of Connecticut.



Medical Malpractice

For the third consecutive session the legislature tried to address the issue of skyrocketing medical malpractice insurance premiums. This crisis has already led to many doctors in high-risk specialties leaving our state, and threatens to drive out many more. I believe the only immediate and lasting solution to this problem is to institute a reasonable cap on the jury awards for non-economic (so called “pain and suffering”) damages. Unfortunately, the majority party disagreed and instead passed a watered down “reform” package that will do little to keep doctors practicing in our state.



Crack Cocaine

As hard as it may be to believe, the legislature actually passed a bill this year to allow drug dealers to possess 26 times the amount of crack cocaine before being subject to mandatory minimum sentences. This misguided legislation was passed in the name of bringing “fairness” to the penalties for crack and powder cocaine. I offered an amendment that would have equalized the penalties for both drugs at half an ounce, but this was voted down by the Democrat majority who seemed to use “fairness” as a code word for “going easy on criminals.” I stuck to the belief that “fairness” is most important for the law abiding citizens in our inner cities who have to live in neighborhoods terrorized by crack dealers. Thankfully Governor Rell vetoed the bill and we eventually came back to pass the “half an ounce” amendment as law.

Anti-Business

Even with the state’s economy lagging behind the rest of the nation in post 9-11 recession recovery, this year saw the majority Democrats propose more anti-business legislation than ever before. Among the worst of these proposals were: 1) mandating that businesses with 100 or more employees be forced to purchase the most expensive health insurance coverage available for their workers; 2) rolling back several of the workers’ compensation reforms we passed in the early 90’s that helped get Connecticut’s economy back on track. I worked hard to defeat these bills and raise public awareness about the destructive impact they would have on our economy and job market. As I have often said, “you cannot be pro-jobs and anti-business.”